PATENT NON-FINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 09/879,966

Confirmation No. 4190

Applicant :

Yoshihiko SANO

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Examiner : Elizabeth L. McKane

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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted on December 22, 2004, to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to facsimile number (703)872-9306.

√ald J. KŮbovcik

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 22, 2004

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 23, 2004.

Please amend the application as directed below and consider the remarks that follow.

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